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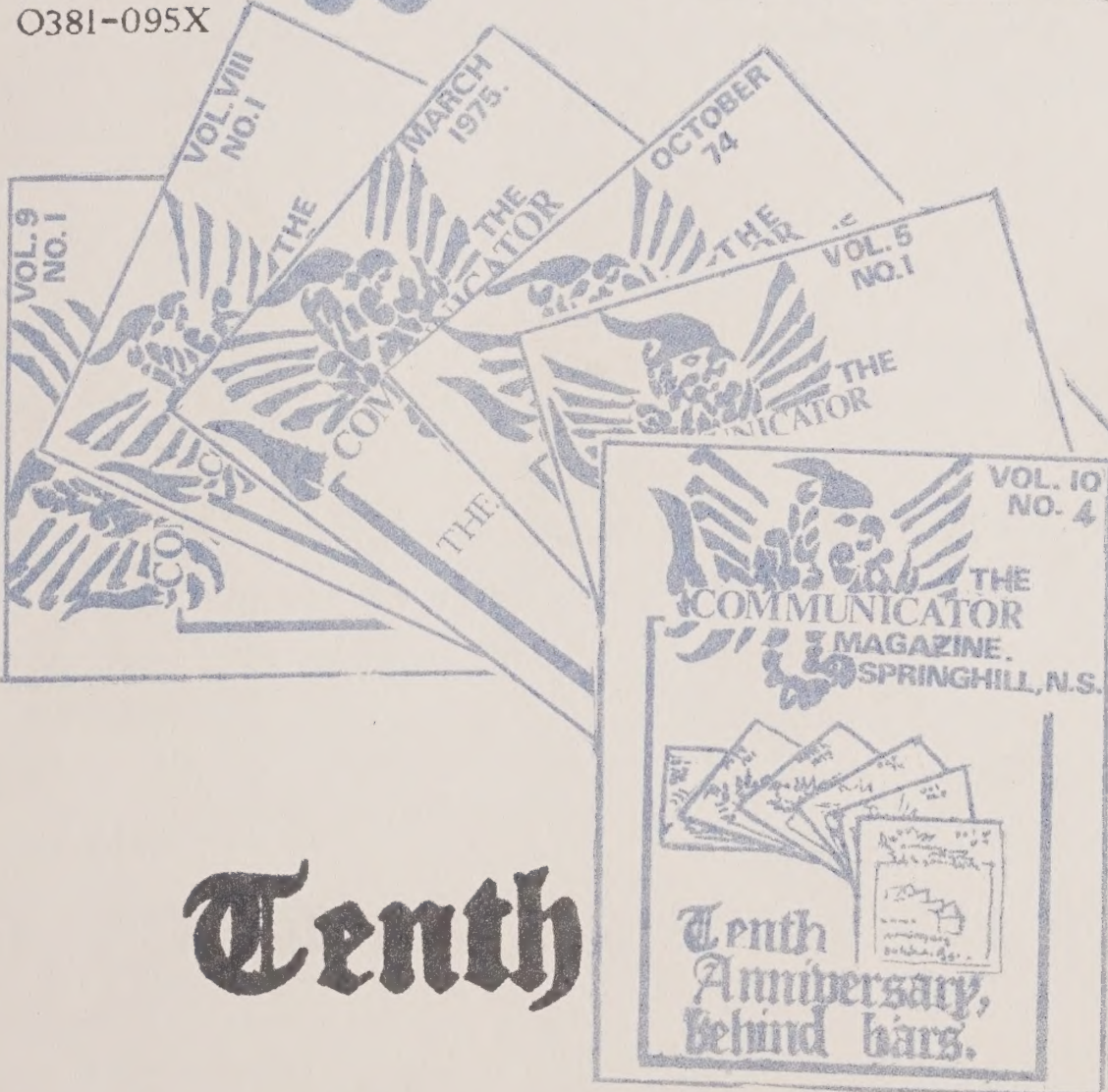
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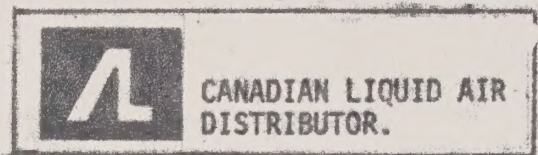
THE COMMUNICATOR

MAGAZINE
SPRINGHILL N.S.

ISSN
0381-095X



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behind bars.



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CENSORSHIP within these pages used to allow characters in the fiction section to speak as they do in real life; but, times have changed and we are no longer permitted to use what some people term vulgar language, although we can continue to describe the vulgarity that is prison. "FOUR-LETTER" words, except ones like kill, hate, beat, dead, time, rape, Hole, jail, rule, pain, fear, and the n-i-s-y that goes with hypocrisy, even if they are in the dictionary, will not be seen again. We will go along with this newest rule while we feel we are getting some of the things said which need saying.

It is also true that we publish items from time to time that express views we don't agree with; however, since we are a forum for diverse opinions, and since opinions are like noses -- everybody's got one -- we will defend to the death the signing author's right to take care of himself. If you read something that provokes you, write down your feelings and send them in; otherwise, take a Bromo and forget it; or, perhaps, re-think your position and tell us about how that happened.

No person in authority over prisoners necessarily agrees with the opinions expressed herein, although they do allow us to publish providing no staff names are used in a negative context and opinions do not get passed off as facts.

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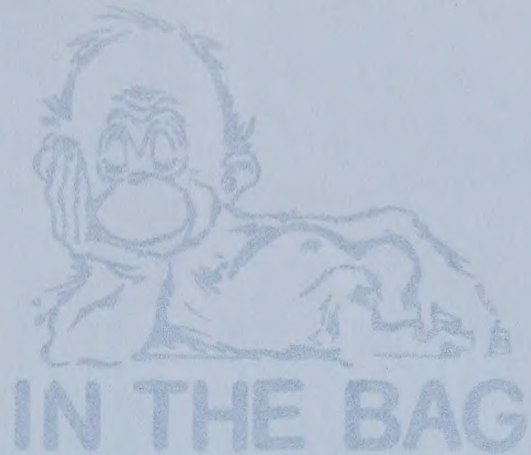
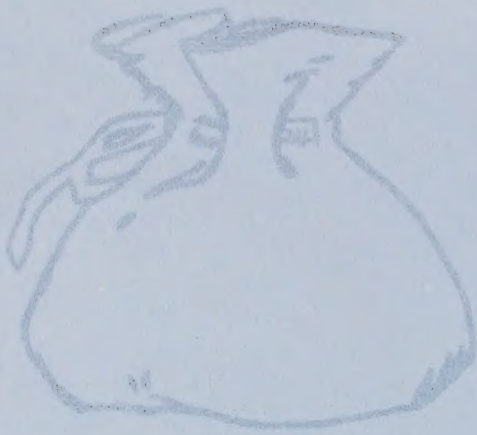
Larry Smith

S.C.D.O.

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letters to the editor

January 11, 1983

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is a cheque for my subscription to the Communicator magazine. It is a great pleasure to inform you that I find your magazine most enjoyable and informative. After working as a student social worker in prison, I can appreciate the need for inmates to maintain contact with the outside. It is a form of rehabilitation in and of itself, and I feel that your magazine meets that purpose. What better title could you find than the "Communicator"?

Besides providing that outlet, your magazine also helps to boost one's self-esteem in seeing his literary talents published, which are, I might add, quite good and enjoyable in reading.

For these reasons you and your staff, as well as the writers, must be commended for your efforts in publishing the Communicator.

Keep up the good work!

Yours truly,

Susan M. Power
St. Johns, Newfoundland.

December 15, 1982

To the Editor.

As a subscriber to your magazine I would like you to know that I find your publication very interesting and entertaining. However, as a resident of Nova Scotia I have acquaintances who have been "guests" of Springhill Institution. Listening to their stories, some funny and some tragic, gave me a view of prison life which doesn't come through in your magazine. So, could you print more stories written by the prisoners at Springhill.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Taylor
Halifax, N.S.

Well R.J., speaking as a 'guest' here, it's been my experience that most guys would rather talk than write.

Ed.

cont.....

So that's what we did, folks. I think we presented the facts in a fair and impartial manner, considering that we're cons reporting on the system that is keeping us here. But much as we hate to admit it, the vast majority of changes in living conditions, food, recreation and in general within this Institution have, to date, been improvements.

As a matter of fact, our main complaints are the lack of change and improvement with the outside agencies within the judicial system. The negative attitude of the Parole Service, the Courts and the variance of sentences handed down for similar offences, RCMP's "BIG BROTHER is watching YOU" tactics (whose going to watch the watchers?), and the disgusting food and conditions to be found in most police lock-ups and Provincial Pens (so that's why they call 'em pens???).

the mathematics of "gating"

AN INMATE SERVES TWO-THIRDS OF HIS SENTENCE AND IS RELEASED ON MANDATORY SUPERVISION. IF CONSIDERED DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC, HE IS ILLEGALLY RE-ARRESTED WITHIN MINUTES OF GAINING HIS SUPERVISED FREEDOM, AND FORCED TO SERVE THE FULL TERM OF HIS SENTENCE. TO ANYONE WITH COMMON SENSE IT WILL BE OBVIOUS THAT THIS MAN WILL BE TWICE AS ANGRY AND THREE TIMES MORE DANGEROUS WHEN HE FINALLY HAS TO BE RELEASED AT THE END OF HIS TIME. NOR WILL HE BE EXPOSED TO THE LIMITATIONS OF MANDATORY SUPERVISION.

IT APPEARS THAT ONE OF THE 'BOY WONDERS' IN OUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS CREATED A SOLUTION THAT WILL FERMENT LIKE A JAILHOUSE BREW.

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'FRIENDLY COMFORT'

Oct. 1972

EDITORIAL

IT'S UP TO YOU!

SUNDAY, October 8, 1972 marks the start of the Living Unit Concept at Springhill Institution. But is it really the start? At Springhill we have had one Unit (Therapeutic Community) operating under this concept for some years and while this writer will grant that the Therapeutic Community has advanced considerably from the basic Concept it has done so, only as a result of starting somewhere and growing from that point by trail and error. I would like to think that, because of the varied success of the Concept as applied to Therapeutic Community, now the entire population will benefit from the implementation of the Living Unit Concept. That, in fact, the Living Unit Concept is a direct result of the Therapeutic Community.

THE L. U. C. then, is not something new in theory, but it is something very new in practice for the majority of inmates and staff of this institution. How well it will work is up to you - staff and inmates alike. "The sky is the limit", I have heard said of the Concept. Quite possibly this is true! Just how true depends on the quality and quantity of communication entered into by all people of the institution. Co-operation will be required, not only from the inmates and staff, but much more importantly from the administration and those not directly participating in the Concept. It is a situation of helping one another all the way down the line.

SO HERE I would ask for the full support of all Administrative personnel - support us all in this endeavour. Do not use your authority, "simply because it is yours to use". Accept the change for its intended value, not because it is new or because it knocks the old system. Change, being a conclusion correctly derived from premise, is only valuable when it is accepted without contempt or simply because it is a change.

EQUALLY important is the new responsibility placed upon the Living Unit staff, many of whom were trained and have become accustomed to the old way. It is our job, as inmates to assist these guys, as they have a greater transformation to accomplish. The only way this can be done is to communicate, express your viewpoint, your feelings; and nine times out of ten, he will do likewise. Only by letting the officers know who we are, will they be able to completely put aside their previous role as keeper of the kept.

PERHAPS, more than anything else, the success of the L. U. C. will depend upon us, as inmates of the institution and those who will be most greatly affected. It will be our responsibility to see that the Concept develops into its intended beneficial purpose. "Lets not knock it, till we've tried it!" Under the L. U. C. we have been given the opportunity to have a say in what happens to us - lets use this opportunity

cont

cont.....

wisely. If we can justify a requested privilege, lets show that we can handle the resulting responsibility. For example, if we can justify staying up late to watch a late movie, and we are granted the privilege, remember that one of the responsibilities of the privilege is getting up on time for breakfast or work the next day. To protect the privilege, some kind of action must be taken if a few guy's don't get up - or our privilege will be in danger of being revoked.

WE have the opportunity of formulating certain rules, by which to live - but once formed it is our responsibility to follow through. For, if we don't we leave the door wide open for administrative interference and possibly face the loss of having anything to say about the situation whatsoever - and boy's that is the old system. Therefore I say it is up to YOU.....

Editor.....



DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT SPRINGHILL INSTITUTION ??
=====

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WRITING ?
DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF CAPABLE OF PROMOTING CHANGE ?
DO YOU LIKE THE FOOD ?
ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE PROGRAM OF REHABILITATION ?
ARE YOU A POET ?
DO YOU CARE ?
=====

If you have answered any of these questions then it follows that you have an opinion and are not a mechanical man or zombie. It also means that you think and feel and probably would like to be heard by other people who hold the same opinions. It means that you are responding to the environment of this institution, that maybe you have ideas about how things may be changed to make prison a little more meaningful and easier to take.

I am looking for ideas, for people who care about themselves and others in the same situation. I am also looking for anything that anyone might have to say about the institution and any subject that relates to the prison system in Canada. What I want is freedom of expression; positive, negative, critical or prasing.

SIMSOC PUBLICATIONS intend to make understanding available to anyone who is big enough to try. What we will not do is lie or colour the truth to suit either the administration or the inmates. The name of the game is COMMUNICATION - something new at Springhill Institution. You have a sample in your hand. Do you like it? What do you like? What don't you like? Do you have a reply to the editorial? To any article? If you have something to say, say it in the COMMUNICATOR!

The COMMUNICATOR is here for you and at your service! Not just to the inmate population, but to the staff and administration as well. I am sure we all have something we would like to say.....so lets say it.
=====

IF YOU (all the people of Springhill Institution) HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY -
-LET THE COMMUNICATOR SAY IT FOR YOU.-

UNIT '8'

Welcome back readers. This is Al Baltzer reporting from #8 after a two year absence. No fans, I was not out on parole. I was here all along, hiding out in the therapeutic unit. As a matter of fact, I did so much hiding, they finally got tired of looking for me and gave I the old shaft. In other words, I flunked the therapeutic program and got the boot. The justification - THEY FELT I NEEDED A MORE STRUCTURED ENVIRONMENT. Wow, is that ever a mind blower. Do you realize everything that that connotates. Oh well, just more psychological double-talk.

Guess who else is back - EVERYBODY! Mike L. (Mike joins the 90% flunkie rate from Shulie Lake - a very successful program if you ask me). Jerry S., Russell H., Denny S., Mike W., Paul O'D., Freddie K., and even Terry W. dropped in for a month or two. The only one missing is Dave H.

In sports, Number Eight was a big disappointment in "A" league fast ball this year. After finishing first in the regular season they blew it in the play-offs and #11 emerged victorious. Houlihan robbed Pooch, Nick tripped over 3rd base, Shelly banged up his wrist, and Wayne B. took a fence parole. The rest of the team were on sabatical leave in #6 land (the hole).

As for "B" league, slow pitch, it was the same sad story. Despite the great pitching and power hitting of Big Al P. the boys just didn't have it.

I have not been back in the Unit long enough to tell you much more about what is going on, but I will say that stretcher bearers and medics are still on 24 hr. call for #8. Spaceman got zapped by a guided muscle a while back and looked like a watermelon with a tumor for about a week. There's been a few other strange things happen too. As unbelievable as it sounds they've stopped using Chinese torture on "B" range. More simply, they finally fixed the leaky shower head. No more drip, drip, drip, late at night. The result of a well placed complaint form.

Speaking of showers, here's one for you. Last spring they contracted out to have the showers re-done in all the units. They did a great job. However, someone must have forgotten to tell the contractors that there are six showers, not three to a Unit. That's cool for the guys upstairs, but for us down in the ghetto, we still have to wear positive traction Adidas or Niks while showering, for fear of slipping in the slime and breaking a leg.

Wow, man, I almost forgot. You should see the yard. FANTASTIC! Six \$1800 willows, two dozen park benches, 12 picnic tables, 4 steel and concrete chess tables, 40 hedge and pine bushes, 200 ft. of steel railing, 20 tons of concrete, and 10 tons of asphalt later and what do you have? "A 20 million dollar condominium," is Freddie K's description. Fantastic! I firmly believe it is a psychological ploy to pacify the natives. If so, it's working. Myself, I kind of like it. At least now I have a tree to talk to.

Anyways, what does the yard have to do with Unit 8? Not much really so I better get back on track.

I was sitting up in the T.V. room the other night watching MASH, and I heard the most extraordinary piece of gossip. Do you know that we are allowed, according to the guy who was telling the story, to stay up one night a month to watch a movie. Well, my head started pounding, I sunk lower in my seat, and tried to block out every word he said. You see, folks, this gentleman is relatively new to the prison system. In other words, he's not hip. What the poor bastard didn't understand is that at least a dozen times a year for the last five years I've had to listen and endure the same line of bullshit and still can't remember ever being allowed to see a movie. I guess I've been around just too long and know what can and cannot be changed, so I got no patience for the crap. However, he could be right. I just wish he'd mention it to someone in

8 is great,

authority instead of me - at least they won't need the Doctor's permission to take an aspirin.

but that was back in October. Now it's January of '83 and quite a lot has happened. The Ball Hockey team is in low gear again. We started alright, shifted into high for the first game of the Xmas tournament and beat #9 by a 5 to 0 score. The championship game wasn't to be ours tho, #11 did to us what we did to #9. POOF! One Christmas championship up in smoke. Russ H. played a good game though. He used his head throughout. A hard shot from the point dinged him in the noggan, took a 90 degreeer, and ended up in the net. As for Russell, well he's been spending a lot of time since with the psychologist - and in bed. Hum, makes you wonder, eh?

Christmas was great this year. It really brought out all the neurosis in the Unit. Boy, what a zany, hairy, completely screwed up place this is to live in. A normal everyday run of the mill Card Tournament which should take four or five days to run, had to be finished in 16 hrs. Not because of Institutional policy either.

Did I use the word 'normal' above. Excuse me fans, I didn't mean to use such blasphamy. After all, there's no such word in use around here.

I have to sign off now, the editor is screaming, which isn't so bad, but in my ear! Now that's bad. Not that I really care about what he is actually saying, it's just the simple fact that I have to listen to him. I wish they would parole 454 guys and just leave me here alone.

Boy, would I ever love that. Some morning I would just like to wake up and hear nothing. No barriers banging, doors being slammed, stereos blasting, people screaming for their buddies, wow, what a trip that would be. Speaking of trips, I'd better stop. I'm starting to get into that overcrowding theme again, and nobody really wants to hear about that, do they. Sign off time - see you next issue if they don't drop the bomb or the economy doesn't go bankrupt.

ALLEN BALTZER

DE-RANGED

Why is it that prison officials at Springhill seem to think that mature inmates like to be assigned the job of having a "steadying influence" on the younger short time inmate. On a cell range of 17 inmates there may be 10 or so younger inmates that can only be described as "over-active". The staff members in all thier infinite wisdom decide that it would be a good idea to place the mature inmate on that range in the hope that he will have a steadying and quietening effect on the others. In reality, all this does is give the more mature inmate one very big headache.

If some inmates want to carry on like tourists, then why not designate a certain range the "Holiday Inn" and let them all stay there where they won't bother everyone else? Why not place all the quiet mature inmates together on the same range where they can enjoy the peace and quiet they seek? If prison officials aren't willing to do this then I suggest that the inmates that are singled out to act as "stabilizers" and "examples" at least be paid for it! Because it is a job and one that was not asked for or mentioned by the judge as being a mandatory part of that inmates sentence.

Liberty

NO. 9, NO. 9, NO. 9,

There have been lots of interesting events in #9 Unit over the past months. Not all of these events have been such great human accomplishments, but they are newsworthy, I'd say. Those readers among you who are up on the events of our recent past, will recall that the Unit suffered a cell fire (no one was hurt, fortunately). This incident resulted in a raft of meetings and eventually a month of early lock-up. During such a lock-up, of course, regular "Living Unit" activities are put on ice. Well, as Christmas was coming the month was shortened to three weeks. A hockey T.A. was planned shortly after that to pit the staff "Snowbirds" against a band of "bent-ankle allstars."

Between the planning stage and the day we went skating, there were a few other incidents, a cell got soaked - well at least it wasn't fire, eh?

Some P.C. cases fingered themselves and a bunch of bystanders were thrown in the hole for a couple of days. Dave (the Godfather??) Crossman professed innocence, claiming his ankle was too weak for him to lean on anyone except for support, but he spent a weekend in the digger with the rest anyway.

Through all these problems half-a-dozen brews were discovered, or rather, the evidence of brews that had been would be more accurate. Stick had one under his bed...terrible little vinegary stew. There are a dozen guys who still think he's the "Brewmaster" though, for some reason known only to them!!

Well, through all these tests to the stable and good order of the Unit, the staff maintained a stiff upper lip. We did go out to play hockey with them at the Springhill Arena, one afternoon in December. They were much too good for us I have to admit, but we solved much of the weakness of our play with some creative line manpower coaching. Hard to stickhandle through a crowd, what Lockhart? Anyway, thanks go to the staff for only punishing a couple of scapegoats for Unit problems, rather than all of us.

Christmas celebrations were low-keyed, as most of the real cards lucked-out and had passes to be home with their families. Anyway, there was a large participation in the tournaments and various recreational competitions over the holidays.

Tony Angel lifted well over half-a-ton as did Terry (Blizz) Blizzard and some others. Jim (The Bull) Sellars also won his weightlifting competition, but he said there was no-one who could get under the weight limit to give him a challenge...modest fellow!! Sellars did 80 pushups to win that - while our tug-o-war team got caught getting set for the pull after the other team had snapped the rope from their hands. So who said we would be the quickest, we know we had the class in that contest!!

So it's the New Year and lots of new faces - recidivism or
job security? Gotta run...

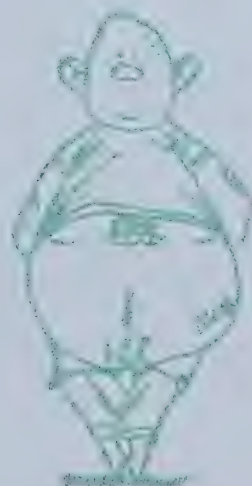
The Underworld News - #9.

FIRST PRINTED IN 1975 -

BUT SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE...



THE CLOTHING ISSUE UNIT AT THE
SPRINGHILL PENITENTIARY FEELS
THAT A PAIR OF SIZE 28 TROUSERS
WITH A 27 inch LEG IS A PROPER
FIT FOR A MAN 6'6" AND 285 lbs.



UNIT 10

I've been asked to write a report on UNIT 10 for the Communicator. For a while the Unit was running in a smooth way, and seemed on the right course. A 'Vegas Night' was held which raised over \$700. This money was used to purchase a new T.V. for the Unit. A month later another 'Vegas Night' provided funds for Christmas tournaments and a Bingo that was held over the holidays.

T.A.'s were on the upswing for a while. Several guys were sent to the Farm Camp and others left via the parole route. However, due to the unwanted generosity of some outside courts the Unit remains full.

It seems the Unit is now on a collision course with disaster. We are told we must grow from 68 guys to 102. If this isn't done there may be an end to the Therapeutic Living Concept.

Things seemed calm on the surface, but something must have been churning around underneath. The King and his Court now believe we are no longer Knights in Shining Armour. Meanwhile we, the under-privileged, are wondering who has our horse.

We have a new Parole Officer in the Unit now. But no fair judgement of him can be made because he's still feeling his way around. The former Parole Officer is still in hospital recovering from "Therapeutic Shock". It seems he had 68 symptoms and no solutions. After three weeks of R & R he found he couldn't handle the serenity of the Therapeutic Community. Since then he's been on sick leave. When leaving the institution he was heard to mutter "When do I get a parole?"

Since Xmas things in #10 have had their ups and downs. The King and his Court have been busy trying to find solutions to unknown problems. We are facing uncertain times, but if cooler heads will prevail there could be a way out of this situation. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to convince the Powers That Be that #10 is a benefit to some inmates. Those who do not fit in are the cause of many problems. Because of this, we may all feel the toe of authority's boot!

#10 has proven its worth in the cases of an untold number of men, and to have it closed would certainly harm those who have shown a sincere interest in it. This Unit allows you to feel a sense of freedom that is unknown in any similar institution in Canada.

Unfortunately a few men, not really interested in helping themselves, find the benefits are easy to sacrifice. But for those of us who need and use the opportunities this Unit offers - we will know a real loss if it is closed down. If this Unit fails to exist there will be many losers --- none more than those who, facing a long sentence, need to feel that sense of freedom offered by NUMBER TEN.

This report was written by a member of the Survivors Club.

FOTO SHOPPE

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ELEVENTH HEAVEN

The snow is settling down like a fine blanket covering the countryside, such is the view from Eleven, overlooking farmer Brown's ranch out back. Inside, life carries on normally, contrary to the previous report in the last issue that most of the Unit has gone to hell and there are more little devils. Finally, thanks to Gene and others some areas are now much cleaner and more livable - cleanliness being next to Godliness.

Most of the guys are involved heavily into hobbies, and some are excellent craftsmen in leather and woodwork. Others are into such arts as trying to see how much their ears can absorb from blasting stereos - usually, though, this category eventually go into stereo repair work. There is still an input into weightlifting and gym work with regulars like Ambrose and Gary Fowler. Gary just left on parole after a stint as Unit representative on the Inmate Committee and some good work with students on the Laubach literacy course.

Christmas Season had sporting events and games, and was generally relaxed with only a few occasions of certain parties trying to imitate 'Uncle Jed' with his still. Big John just got a release and was heard to be mumbling something unfavourable ('/ \$ % ? \$ & % ? % Springhill?) as he went trucking through the main gate in his size 14's. Good luck, John.

Jim and Frank can't decide on which pipe smokes the best or which brand of tobacco is smoothest - Cherry Blend being usually the choice. They say the canteen should have some new brands though, such as Tibetan Yak blend and Ivory Coast Kief.

'Shawn the Flash' will soon be making his dash as he got his parole and will leave a major vacuum in the floor hockey team, which has been making a clean sweep of late. That's it from me, but stay tuned in for the Number Eleven Sports Report.

Gabriel



Well, now it's time for the sports scene in No. 11. As you know we are the best hockey team in Springhill. We haven't been beaten since the league opened, which gives us a six game winning streak. I am pretty sure that we will wrap it up this year because we haven't had any real opposition to date. The rest of the Units are going to have to come on strong to beat us.

We have a lot of good players on the team: Keith Toope, D. Hamilton Chris Rogers, Tom Langille, and that's just the first line. So I'll wish the rest of the Units the best of luck, because you are going to need it - HA Ha...

Derrick Hamilton.



Groupe Culturel Français

Le groupe a été commencer durant l'année 1982 vers le mois d'Octobre. Le groupe français s'intéresse à garder la culture française et à aider certaine organisation. Depuis la fondation du groupe, il y a eu des hauts et des bas mais les membres du groupe ne se sont pas démoraliser, mais ils ont travaillé encore plus fort pour leur cause. Nous sommes environ 25 français dans l'institution. Nous avons un rendez-vous à tous les Lundi soir de 6:00 p.m. à 9:00 p.m. souvent avec invités. Nous souhaitons la plus cordiale bienvenue à tout les français intéressé à faire parti de notre groupe.

Le groupe français consiste d'un exécutif formé des membres du groupe qui travaille pour le bon cheminement du groupe. Cette année nous avons invité plusieurs étudiants de L'Université de Moncton pour discuter de la culture française ici dans les Provinces Maritimes. Nous tenons à remercier aux membres du groupes français et aussi à l'administration de l'institution pour le support qu'il donne au groupe.

The French Cultural Group started in October, 1982. The purpose of the group is to keep their French culture and to help better themselves by having socials, get-togethers and meet with invited guests from the outside.

We have a French Cultural Group meeting every Monday night from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and would like to welcome any new members wishing to participate with our group.

The French group is consisted of an executive formed with members of the group. They work to form the good march of the group and to try to make their needs be fulfilled. This year we have invited a lot of students in French speaking language from the University of Moncton to discuss French culture here in the Maritimes. We would like to thank the members of the group and the staff involved from the Administration, for all the support we have been given for the French Cultural Group.

~

Président	-	Guy Tousignant
Trésorier	-	Gilles Provost
Secrétaire	-	François Pitre
Coordinateur	-	Danny Vautour
Représentant des Activités	-	Edgar Bonenfant

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP



by Jim Lotz

If you want to find out what's going to happen in Canada tomorrow, read the Globe and Mail today. Those who direct the destinies of Canada start their day with that newspaper, and what appears in it either becomes government policy, or affects it. Some prison inmates have written letters to the Globe and Mail as a way of getting their views on life inside across to the outside.

On December 11th the newspaper contained an article that signals a shift in policy for the Canadian Correctional Service. Written by Walter Pitman, the article, entitled "A Purpose for the Pen", took up almost a whole page. That shows that Mr. Pitman has a lot of clout. Among other things, he's President of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, and one of its committees has been studying the educational offerings of the Correctional Service. To put it mildly, they don't think much of them. They complain that most senior management believe that "education is good if it keeps prisoners calm and occupied". That's not an unreasonable conclusion for anyone with their job!

Criminology has become a growth industry these days, and everyone is trying to get into the act. Mr. Pitman proposes a new approach to the reform of criminals. He points out that most theories about the causes of crime have only one flaw - "They do not produce the desired result -- reformation and rehabilitation".

Then Mr. Pitman proposes his answer - education programmes in the prisons. An education programme developed by the University of Victoria in the Matsqui Institution seems to have cut the rate of recidivism.

This new approach does not treat offenders as victims of social forces like poverty - since these are beyond their control. Instead it sees them as having some power, as all human beings do, to shape their own destinies.

Roger Caron did not wait for an educational programme to help him. Painfully, and with great difficulty and some help from a teacher, he wrote down his story.

And some concerned and committed members of the staff at Springhill are not waiting until Mr. Pitman's approach gets official approval.

In November, 1982, Harry Thurston and I took part in a new educational experiment at Springhill. The Writer's Workshop was aimed at giving some of the inmates a chance to talk about reading and writing - and to pick up some of the tricks of the trade. Harry's a poet and magazine writer; I've done nine books on a wide range of topics (including The Sixth of December, a thriller linking the Halifax Explosion of 1917 to the presence of Leon Trotsky in the Amherst POW Camp) and have written for a number of magazines.

Both Harry and I took to reading while young, in part to escape the monotony of life. And we turned to writing as a profession because we couldn't find jobs. It gave us a chance to earn and learn at the same time and got us into some interesting places - like Springhill.

On average, freelance writers in Canada earn \$7,000 a year. But it's a profession where you can grow and learn at your own pace. And it gives you some control over your own destiny.

The individuals with whom we shared our experiences in the November workshop struck me as being intelligent and articulate. Some had written poetry that showed promise, and all had a serious interest in the processes of writing. All chose to devote free time to the workshop.

Harry read a poem by Alden Nowlan, a poet with Grade 5 education who is officially illiterate. He came out of a dirt-poor part of Nova Scotia, and is considered one of Canada's finest poets. In his poem, The Mosherville Road, he tells of walking down a dark road, with ditches on each side. The group remained quiet during the reading and for a few seconds after. Then

cont...

one man said; "I've been down that road". And the others murmured agreement. Harry and I have been down that road too.

And so the words of an absent poet gave us a new sense of community, of shared experience. For that's what good writing is all about.

But then Harry and I had to leave.

And the others had to stay.

I travelled home in a thoughtful mood, reading more of Alden Nowlan's poetry as the bus moved swiftly through the dark countryside. I'd thought that the inmates at Springhill would be different from me - that's a common view of people on the outside. And yet I'd found them not so different after all. Words had linked us - those we spoke and those we'd read. They formed bridges between those inside and outside Springhill.

We live in a world where language runs people's lives.

If you can obtain some control over language, life can be easier. For you get some control over your world. You learn to organize your thoughts - and to communicate them effectively. And in doing so, you can open doors for others, help them to understand their situation, make them conscious of their place in the scheme of things.

The pen is mightier than the sword.

And it's mightier even than the Pen.

Our venture was strictly a hit and run one.

We made no promises. We suggested to the group that if they wanted to put writing workshops on a more regular basis, they should discuss it with the staff. Harry and I would do what we could to help. Both of us come from a working class background. We were taught early to share what we have.

Our experience shows that the Correctional Service - or at least some individuals in it - is willing to try something new, to open some windows for inmates.

Even after writing millions of words, I still find they don't come easy. But I've always been able to get help from someone, and the more I write, the more help I need.

If the new educational approach catches on, then programmes built around Reading and Writing could be a way of helping inmates to develop skills and to understand better the human condition. They would also provide inmates with "Ways of Escape". That's the title of an autobiography by Graham Greene, who writes serious books - and thrillers.

Those words summarize what reading and writing are all about.

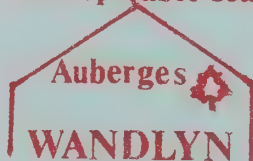
Editor's note: Jim Lotz is a well-known author now residing in Halifax, and is a past President of the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia.

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BLACK INMATE ASSOC.

Once again it's time for me to put my brain into operation and compile a report for the Communicator. There's not much to rap about in regard to the group that differs from my previous account of our activities. There have been a few changes made in the executive body of our organization. In fact, all the Board Members have been replaced except for myself in the position of President of B.I.A. Unfortunately, things were not operating as they should have been and that prompted the changes that were made. However, we are now back in full-swing and our prospects for the future have taken on a more positive aspect. We have been able to make contact with black people and organizations that show a great deal of interest in our group and its endeavors.

Presently we are planning to have a social gathering for Christmas, but this is still in the preliminary stage and is temporarily stalled at the hurdle of 'circumstances permitting'.

Last but not least, the group continues to work to achieve its primary goal - to become fully aware of our heritage, culture and purpose of beingfirst - blacks..and second - inmates.

Thanks go to Larry Smith for his support and patience with the group, also to you guys at the Communicator. That's all for now people, until next time - be good to yourselves.

Darrell A. Diggs

President - B.I.A.

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'ON THE WAY RELAXATION'

A PICTURE IS WORTH...



Author Unknown

The year is 2969 and the Canadian Government's policy of socialized medicine includes a "proxy papa" service. Any couple after 5 years of childless marriage may apply for the service of a special government agent who will aid the woman in her attempt to become a parent.

The Smiths have no children and a government man is due. Mr. Smith leaves for work. Instead of a government man, a door-to-door photographer of baby pictures knocks on the door.

MRS.: Oh, good morning.

MAN: You probably don't know me, but I represent...

MRS: Yes, you needn't explain. My husband said to expect you.

MAN: I make a specialty of babies, especially twins.

MRS: That's what my husband said. Please sit down.

MAN: Then your husband probably told you that...

MRS: Oh, yes, we both agreed. It's probably the best thing to do.

MAN: Well, in that case we may as well get started.

MRS: (blushing) Just where do we start?

MAN: Just leave everything to me. I recommend two in the bathtub, one on the couch and a couple on the floor.

MRS: Bathtub...floor? No wonder Harry and I never...

MAN: Well, my dear lady, even the best of us can't guarantee a good one every time. But say..one out of six is bound to be a honey. I usually have the best luck with the bathtub shots.

MRS: Pardon me, but it does seem a bit...er...informal.

MAN: No, indeed, in my line of work, a man can't do his best work in a hurry. (He opens an album and shows her some baby pictures). Look at this baby, it took four hours, but isn't she a honey?

MRS: Yes, it is a lovely child...

MAN: But for a tough assignment, look at this one. Believe it or not it was done on top of a bus in Princess Street.

MRS: My God!

MAN: It's not hard when a man knows his job. My work is a pleasure. I spent years perfecting my technique. Now this baby I did with one shot in Loblaw's window.

MRS: I can't believe it!

MAN: And here is a picture of the prettiest twins in town. They turned out exceptionally well considering their mother was so difficult. I knocked off the job in MacDonald Park on a snowy afternoon. I never worked under such conditions. People were crowding four and five deep, all pushing to get a look.

MRS: Four and five deep?

MAN: Yes, and more than three hours, but I had two buddies helping me. I could have had another one before dark, but by that time the squirrels were sniffing at my equipment and I had to give up. Well, Madam, if you are ready, I'll get my tripod and start to work.

MRS: Tripod?

MAN: Yes, I always use a tripod to rest my equipment on. It is much too heavy for me to hold for any length of time. Now Mrs. Smith ...Mrs. Smith...Oh dear...she fainted...

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BRAND NAMES FOR QUALITY

prison torture charges

renewed by rights group

Toronto Star
Jan. 6, 1983.

By Kelly McParland

An international human rights group has renewed charges that prisoners were tortured after the Archambault prison riot.

The report was written by Thierry Maleville, Paris lawyer for the International Federation of the Rights of Man and released yesterday. Canada has "shown contempt for human dignity" and ignored United Nations' standards for treatment of prisoners since the July riot in which three prison officers were killed, the report says.

It accuses federal prison officials of seeking revenge against prisoners, blocking their access to lawyers, violating their constitutional rights and creating "all the elements of revolt."

The report is based on three weeks of interviews with prisoners, guards and police in August and September.

Prisoners were beaten, urinated on, suspended by the ears, forced to masturbate, deprived of food or sleep and suffocated by having their heads forced down toilets, Maleville says.

The treatment was increased if a prisoner complained to investigators or lawyers, Maleville says.

The federation, founded in 1922 in Paris, is a non-governmental organization accredited by the United Nations. It sends judicial inquiries to countries suspected of violating human rights.

"Canada must be considered guilty of violations of basic human rights and freedoms," the report says.

Treatment of prisoners at the prison near Montreal "clearly constitutes the character of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment" and has left prisoners bitter, frustrated and angry, it says.

The 74-page report is the third to detail allegations of torture since the bloody July revolt. Shortly after the rioters killed the three guards, their two ringleaders committed suicide.

Trials are to begin Monday for 10 prisoners charged with murder following the riot.

In November, Rt. Rev. Clarke MacDonald, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, called for an inquiry into the riot and its aftermath.

Solicitor-General Ronert Kaplan rejected MacDonald's proposal, as well as the findings of an earlier report by U.S. lawyer Charles Kolb.

Maleville criticized Ottawa for calling an inquiry into erotic shows held at Archambault, but refusing an inquiry into the riot.

"Canada must immediately cease its violations of international agreements and its internal legislation," he said.



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Charter prompts prison change

OTTAWA. Regulations on reading material for convicts in federal penitentiaries have fallen victim to Canada's new Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Many of the regulations which have governed prison access to books and magazines appear to be in violation of the new charter. The federal cabinet has consequently revoked two sections of the Penitentiary Act which allowed prison authorities to prohibit certain magazines dealing with religious questions. Under the two revoked sections authorities could ban publications which ridiculed any religion or faith and could ban publications which promoted controversy among members of different faiths or religions.

Prairie Messenger

October 24, 1982



CRIMINAL'S PROFITS MAY PAY JAIL COST

Criminals who profit from their crimes should pay for their stay in jail, Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan said yesterday.

"I'm giving thought to a new revision to allow the correctional service to charge an inmate with the cost of his incarceration," he said.

Kaplan said he had not yet established "a method of charging" criminals who made money from books or films about their crimes or time behind bars.

But he could revise regulations to allow the government to expropriate such money or charge the criminal a fee to help pay for his incarceration.

It costs about \$50,000 a year to keep a prisoner in jail.

Kaplan, speaking yesterday to the Quebec Criminology Society in Montreal, said U.S. courts have recently upheld laws allowing expropriation of profit earned by criminals.

The Gazette - Montreal, Oct. 21, 1982

a view from CARLETON HOUSE

by Bruce Wallace

Carleton House is located near the corner of Carleton and Coburg Streets in uptown Saint John, New Brunswick. It's a half-way house, operated by the John Howard Society. From the outside, it doesn't look very special; there are no neon signs. In fact, unless you have the exact address the first time you go by it, you'll probably miss it.

The inside of the house is presently under renovation---you might almost say continuing renovation, for there always seems to be some repair work going on; a wall painted here, a new bathroom there...well, you do catch up eventually. Here at Carleton House, the maximum accommodation is fifteen residents, though it varies from a low of seven to an average twelve.

What is a half-way house? It means just that---half-way. Half-way to the street. There are rules. Check-ins and curfews, house meeting to attend, and individual duties to do. The rules are designed with the maximum freedom of the resident consistent with the running of an orderly house in mind; the rules aren't there to dump on anybody or to screw people up. Any operation of this kind needs some kind of internal consistency, so no alcohol or drugs is standard procedure.

Who stays here? Well, the typical resident is about 23, whose typical offence has been break-and-enter. The age limits aren't absolute, of course; some recent residents have covered a span from 16 to 55. And the offence isn't always break-and-enter, either. Residents are accepted in the three categories of day parole, full parole, and mandatory supervision; but the typical resident is more than likely to be on a day parole, interested in putting the past behind him and working into a new life.

That's really what the house is all about....learning a new life-style and getting re-acclimatized to life on the street. It's a humane approach, or tries to be, recognizing that, law offender or not, we respect the dignity of people and the idea of extending a helping hand. At this point I could draw your attention to the prison conditions of two hundred years ago and the British reformer, John Howard, who started some reform measures, but you can read about him on your own. You're more likely to want to know what the pattern of life is like at Carleton House.

The first week is an easy week. "R-'n'-R" week. Stay up as late as you want, sleep in as late as you want. No house duties, no pounding the streets looking for work, no school. You are assigned, however, a 6:30 curfew, and a check-in time during the day between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM, even if it's just a case of walking in and out of the house. The curfew limits are there for a purpose, though, and you're expected to observe them.

Other than that, you're free to set your own pace during your "R-'n'-R" week. Go around and see the sights of beautiful Saint John; the best place for girl-watching is the north side of King's Square, by the bus stop, which is about four minutes' walk from the house.

As far as meals go, some residents choose to eat at the house, others choose to eat downtown. Your choice. Food is available at Carleton House and residents cook it; usually you make your own lunch and one of the residents cooks dinner for the evening.

The second week is more structured. You jump to a 10:00 curfew, but you have to be up by 8:30 at the latest the next morning, unless you're sick. At this point, one of our counsellors will take your case and do a twin profile, called Needs Analysis and Individual Program Plan, and they're just what the names imply. You talk over your situation, figure out what it is you need---either a job or more schooling, good relations with your wife or girlfriend, family, whatever, how to save money, how or where to look for a job (more about that in a moment) and generally get a handle on where you are. The Individual Program Plan (or IPP, for short) that gets detailed as a result of a needs-analysis profile is tailor-made to your needs; once it's set down in writing, your counsellor--and members of the house staff--expect you to follow it. If there are any changes you want to make in it, a new profile can be done in a reasonable period of time.

Going into the third week entitles you to an 11:30 curfew. By this time you know more about job-search techniques, and will be filling out a job-search sheet regularly---if you are more interested in a job than going to school. Some residents go after night school courses, for there are different ways to upgrade your education. And since Saint John has several high schools, a university and community colleges, some residents go to daytime classes, in which case a job-search sheet is not required.

CONT

The fourth week brings a 12:00 curfew, and eligibility for a weekend pass. Passes are not granted automatically; they have to be earned. Not submitting a job-search sheet (or poor school record), together with poor performance or attitude on house duties and curfews nearly always means no pass that weekend. On Fridays and Saturdays a 12:00 curfew is extended to 1:00--but its not like the whole night, is it? So most residents put forth an honest effort, and in these instances, passes are usually granted.

Being late for curfew or being mouthy around the house when asked to do something is enough to earn a grounding for a night to a 6:30 curfew, though an official warning is issued first. Groundings are cumulative--one night, two nights for a second offence, then three, etc. Get too many and you'll probably find yourself back in the joint...and that's no fun.

One welcome feature of Carleton House is its employment counselling service. "Project Fairway" has two full-time counsellors in the house, with the latest information on the job market, search techniques, and information on different phases of upgrading through different educational programs; they also operate a casual employment service for small short term jobs. And these short jobs can certainly add up, because they help to supplement that important social assistance cheque at the end of the month.

Each resident looking for work is given a \$50 a month allowance, or \$100 if attending community college or related institution. Residents who find work quickly (and believe it or not, there are a great many who do) help pay for their upkeep; a nominal \$15 a week board is charged, which may be waived at the discretion of the senior advisor.

Money, money, money. The normal procedure for a working resident is to bank half his salary, so that when the time comes for him to leave, a "nest-egg" is ready and waiting.

Half way. It's a way back to the straight life, and we'd like to think that providing the service is worthwhile. 65% of our residents think so too ...and that's a pretty good average.

Carleton House. There are guys who will swear that it's at least as good as whatever you have now. So when you're ready for release, give us some thought!

Our address is: The Carleton House
120 Carleton Street
St. John
New Brunswick.

(Bruce Wallace is an advisory staff member with the John Howard Society)

PANASONIC/TECHNICS



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DID YOU KNOW??

That 1.7 million people in Canada have criminal records.

That the average number of adults imprisoned in Canada on any given day is 22,800.

That the rate of imprisonment in Canada per 100,000 population is 95.

That the average daily number of persons on parole or mandatory supervision in Canada is 6,758.

That approximately 65% of inmates who are granted parole successfully complete their parole.

That approximately 50% of inmates released on mandatory supervision successfully complete their sentences on this form of release.

That the completion rate of temporary absences granted from federal institutions each year is 99.63%.

That the average annual cost of keeping an inmate in a federal penitentiary is \$36,047, and the average annual cost of supervising an offender on parole or mandatory supervision is \$3,501.

That federal inmates may earn anywhere from \$3.15 to \$7.55 per day in an institution.

That 123 federal inmates are considered sufficiently dangerous to warrant separate confinement.

Source: Basic facts about Corrections in Canada - 1982, published by the Correctional Service of Canada.

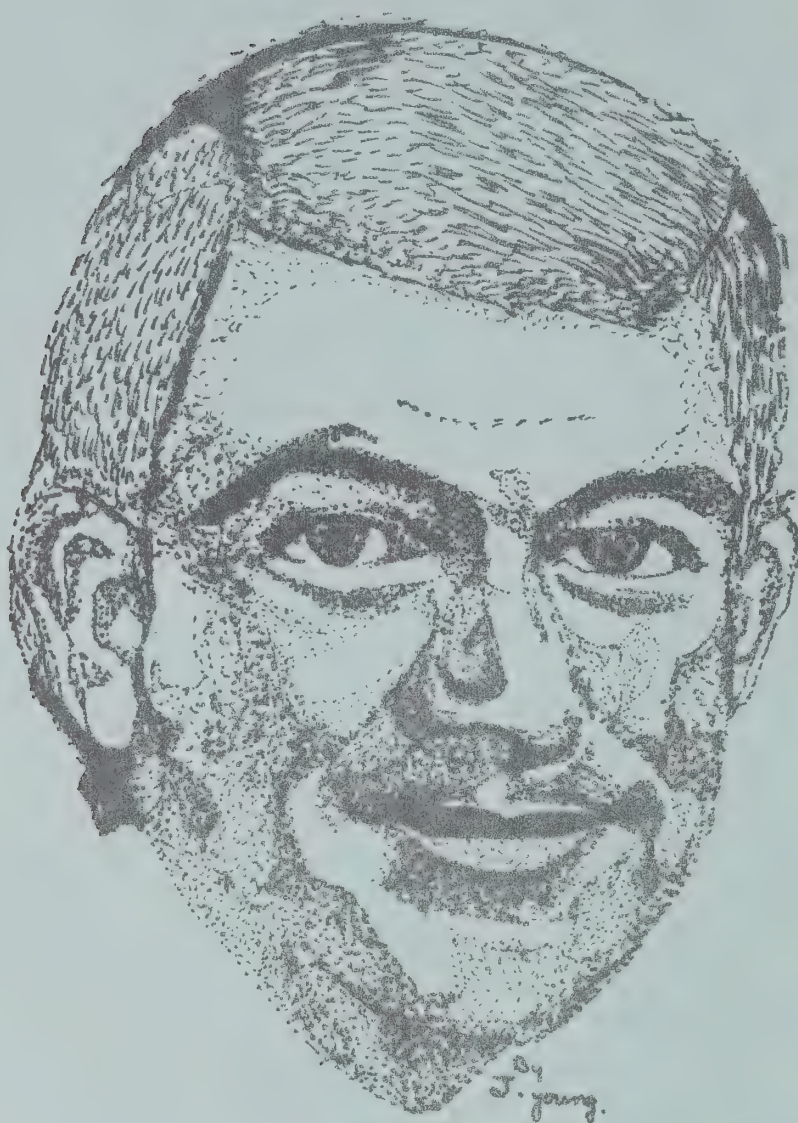
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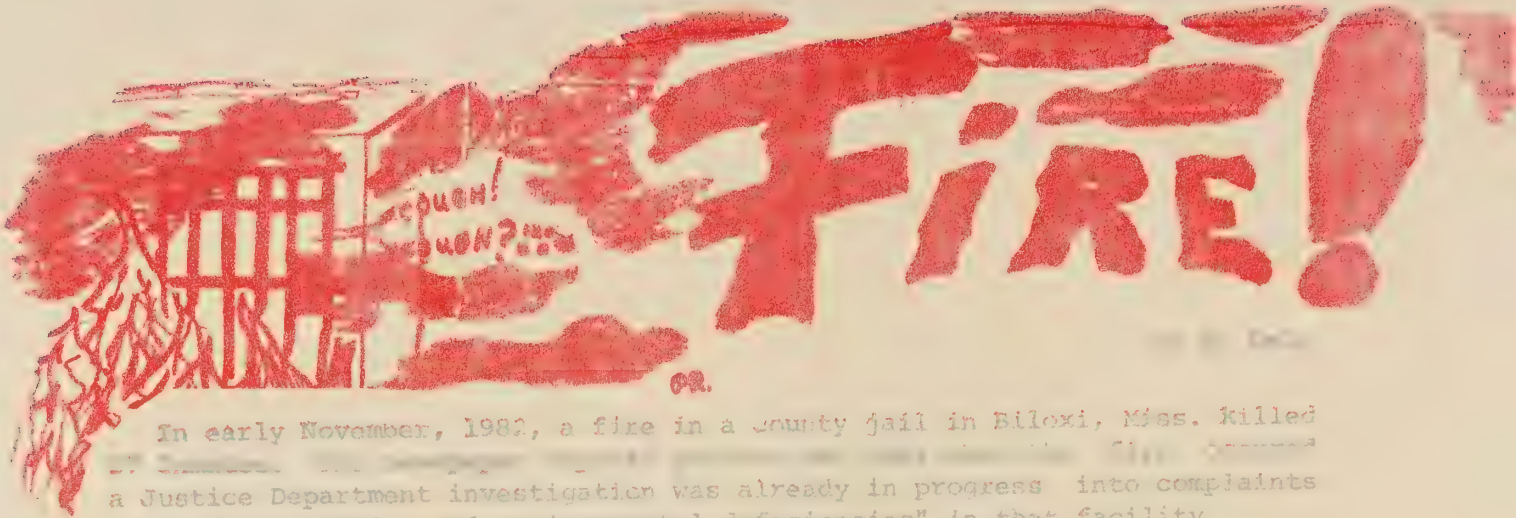
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IS THIS THE FACE
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OR.

In early November, 1982, a fire in a County Jail in Biloxi, Miss. killed a Justice Department investigation was already in progress into complaints about "overcrowding and environmental deficiencies" in that facility.

Overcrowding is also a problem in Correctional Institutions in Canada, both federal and provincial. The problem appears to be increasing by the inertia of it's own momentum. From the 'inside' one gets the impression that the steamroller of justice has run amok. Even the administrators of prisons across the country, whose pensions depend on a steady supply of inmates, must be ready to shout 'uncle'. It should be pretty obvious that overcrowding, in any environment, creates stress - but nowhere moreso than in a prison. It affects every aspect of prison life twenty-four hours a day. The operating facilities become overloaded. Quality of food declines because the Kitchen cannot adequately handle the increased population. The Recreation Department runs out of space and equipment.

Sharing a cell is another stress factor, and will eventually lead to the Hospital facilities being over-stretched (double-bunks in the Hospital cells?) A lot of thought should be given to safety hazards brought on by overcrowding. Safety-wise, fire is the threat uppermost in the mind of the inmate. The horror of being locked in a cell and hearing the fire alarm is a recurring nightmare, especially knowing that your life lies in the hands of the 'screw' with the keys. He's tired and irritable from the from the extra duties and overtime piled upon him by the overcrowding, and there's no love lost between you anyhow. Is he going to risk his own skin to save yours? Think about it! I would like to point out that, having served over a year of my sentence in four different prisons, I have never been inconvenienced by, or even heard of, a fire drill.

Perhaps I'm being old-fashioned, but when I was in school, and in the Navy, fire drills were the occasional reminder of an ever-present threat. Of course, they were also a life-saving procedure. Has modern technology in the field of fire alarms and smoke detectors made the fire drill a thing of the past?

The whole point of this article is to focus on the fact that overcrowding in Canadian Institutions is totally unnecessary. There are too many inmates serving time for non-violent crimes involving less than \$200. There are too many people serving time for minor narcotics charges, and there are too many alternatives to a prison sentence. As a mature (45 year old) first offender, the writer of this article has no complaint about the sentence he received, but as a inmate in a Canadian medium security institution I feel that there are too many inmates between the ages of 17 and 23 who are doing time for nothing more than irresponsible mischief. This is even more evident in county jails. Canada has the reputation of having more prison inmates per capita than any other country in the free world.

1,700,000 people in Canada have criminal records - that statistic alone indicates that all is not well within our justice system, and that Canada is fast becoming a Police State. Perhaps if the Solicitor-General interviewed some of our refugees from the Eastern Bloc countries he would see where the RCMP is leading him - and us.

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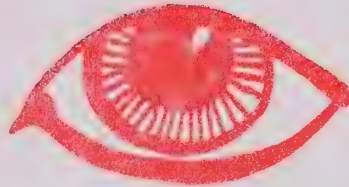


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CRIMINAL PROFILES WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION

During the 1976-77 period a need was identified to synopsise all significant information relating to individual federally incarcerated inmates and to have this information readily available to law enforcement agencies in a computerized format. A proposed format was developed and approved in principle at the National Joint Committee. Initially profiles were developed on the 500 most dangerous inmates. Subsequently Correctional Services of Canada converted these to the automated system and extend the project to include all inmates incarcerated in maximum security institutions.

At a National Joint Committee meeting it was decided the Quebec Regional committee would undertake a pilot project with the objective of having all police agencies provide a synopsis of criminal information on an automatic basis, to the Regional Manager Security. The project has now been refined to the point whereby the Regional Manager Security acts as the central liaison officer, the recipient and repository for all police information. In this manner the control and protection of police reports is rigidly exercised. The form used by police in Quebec incorporated the type of information needed by the CSC to ensure an inmate's complete history is recorded.

While it is to be noted that the inmate profile system exists, the project is not static and is in the process of being reviewed to ensure it reflects user needs. At present the profile is composed of eight parts as follows.

- Module 1 - A list of profile modules or screens.
- Module 2 - Tombstone information concerning the inmate.
- Module 3 - Information relating to the inmates date of admission; the institution; mandatory supervision; warrant expiry; parole eligibility dates; the aggregate sentence expressed in years, months; type of offence and type of release.
- Module 4 - Information indicating the date, from and to which institution, and the reason the inmate was transferred.
- Module 5 - Incidents and convictions reflecting security incidents which are of such a significance that they could impact on the inmate's supervision, employment, etc.
- Module 6 - Synopsis of offence: should include a synopsis of the offence for which the offender is presently serving time; remarks highlighting the person's propensity for violence, and pertinent remarks made by the court, police or other knowledgeable authority.
- *** Module 7 - Associates/accomplices: Identifying persons with whom the inmate is, or is under suspicion of being, involved in illegal, illicit, disruptive or similar type activities. Identifying other inmates whom the subject is incompatible with, and the reasons why. Should the reasons be considered sensitive, a short notation directing the reader to a source document is required. cont.....

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Module 8 - Sociological and psychological background: this part is intended to provide a synopsis of information to enable readers to quickly assess propensity for violence and the conditions that may calm or provoke an individual. Direct quotes outlining psychological or psychiatric problems and assessments should be included. In addition, a short narrative on family background should be included.

Detailed studies are underway and it is anticipated that, as users identify needs, additional parts applicable to specific activities will be developed.

The development of an automated system as originally envisaged has proven to be much more complex and costly in terms of human and financial resources than forecasted; thus, CSC has been unable to develop a profile on all CSC inmates as quickly as originally scheduled. However, at each maximum and medium security institution, an Institutional Preventive Security Officer (IPSO) has been established, and police agencies are encouraged to liaise with the IPSO for the purpose of exchanging information.

*** Editor's note: Module 7 is our main reason for reprinting this report from the National Joint Committee Newsletter Vol. No.1, Summer, 1982. This particular category seems to be a very insidious piece of work, designed to estrange the inmate or ex-inmate from present or potential friends. As everyone knows 'a good policeman suspects everyone' so how can a man with a federal record, in all fairness, strike up a friendship without telling the the new acquaintance that he or she will probably have their name entered into the RCMP computer system. I believe the term is 'guilt by association'. and who wants to wish that on a friend.



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CHRISTMAS FAMILY VISITING DAY

The Family Visiting Day on 5 December went off really well. The V & C Department worked with great efficiency and passed the visitors through with a minimum amount of fuss and bother. The old gym was nicely decorated with the tables neatly laid out, and was just about filled to capacity.

The Inmate Committee and the Gym staff did an excellent job of organization and if there were any 'screw ups' they were quickly rectified and not obvious to the casual observer. Everyone seemed to have a terrific time, with the possible exception of the inmates who volunteered to entertain the children in the kiddies room. I took one look in there and refused to go any further unless fully armed. There were three writhing masses of kids trying to tear the limbs off the inmates....it looked like three candy bars on an ant-hill. As I beat a hasty retreat I heard one guy whimpering something about 'cruel and unjust punishment'. Guess they should have ordered more balloons.

The Christmas cartoons briefly interrupted the kids entertainment, but gave the adults a nostalgic trip down Memory Lane for half an hour. Donald Duck still quacks me up....sorry, it just slipped out.

Our strategy with Fred Kennedy worked pretty good. Knowing of Freddie's infatuation with the Queen's picture on the Canadian banknote, we arranged for him to run the cash canteen. The Gym staff were so busy watching 'Fast Freddie' fondle the fivers that everyone else got away with all kinds of chicanery. Speaking of love affairs, Gary Fowler spent most of the afternoon with the microphone, he did a fine job on the announcements, and on the draw for the door prizes (two wall clocks and two table lamps made by inmates) but he did seem to spend a lot of time exhorting the ladies to go to the toilet....pervert. Inmate Committee Chairman, Peter King was keeping his finger on the pulse behind the scenes, and like a reluctant virgin at an orgy, he refused to expose himself to the limelight. Wooden sticks appeared, like magic, protruding from peoples faces as Glen Thompson made the rounds and force-fed a lollipop into every open mouth. The guy next to me tried to light his twice - heavy smoker, I guess.

After shooting his 355th photograph in front of the Christmas tree, Joe Power ran out of power, or rather the battery in his camera did, Joe said he was quite relieved, his trigger finger was just about wore to the bone.

Santa Claus (Jerry Lemieux) performed in traditional style, distributing the toys and "Ho Ho Ho-ing" around greeting the kids and sounding very jolly, but he disappeared quite fast when some hardy young reveller threatened to set his beard on fire if he didn't get a ten-speed right away. The Kitchen supplied a hefty cold plate for everyone, with tea, coffee, ice-cream and juice flowing freely all afternoon.

So, to Ed McCormick, Jack Kline and the Gym staff, Jock Spence and the guys at V & C, the Inmate Committee, the Kitchen staff with John Henderson, and all the inmates who helped out, especially Santa's helpers at A.O.Y. who made the wooden toys for the kids -

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prison humour

By Johnson Lettlier

Walla Walla

Ed Bytheway was let out of his segregation cell and was escorted by three tough-looking guards up to the classification floor to go to his disciplinary hearing for assaulting a correctional officer.

A well-known hardcore and a fierce boxing competitor who seldom lost a fight, he had a nose spread over his face like the blade of a bulldozer, testifying that he didn't back down from many men.

As Ed slouched in a folding chair in the hearing room the Sergeant, acting as prosecutor for the "kangaroo court", was insulting as he served Ed up with a volley of choice questions. Under the verbal onslaught Bytheway finally admitted he'd given the correctional officer "a slight shove".

"Just a slight shove, eh?" repeated the Sergeant, patting his bald head, pursing his lips and tapping his pen in an amazing exhibition of manual dexterity.

Finally the Captain, who was apparently acting as Judge, hit upon an idea that would certainly put a lid on the case.

"Mr. Bytheway," said the mild-mannered Captain, lighting his pipe with his Navy Zippo lighter "just show us exactly what you did."

"You mean you want me to show you just how hard I shoved him?"

"Yeah, that's right," the Sergeant said with an insultingly toothy smile.

Bytheway's eyes gleamed. He sprang from his chair like a man with his pants on fire and landed against the Sergeant with all his force, knocking the Sergeant against a rack of rule booklets which cascaded down to the floor like a bunch of oversized playing cards.

"Gentlemen," said Bytheway, turning to the Captain with a smile, "about one-tenth that hard!"

Quickie: What do you call a Japanese boxer whose father has diarrhoea?

'A slap-happy Jappy with a crap-happy pappy.'

Don't get too optimistic - the light at the end of the tunnel may be the train!



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occupational - exploratory - training

- Frona Brayley & Pat Robinson.

How many times have you been asked these or similar questions?

What do you want to do when you grow up?

What are you going to do after leaving school?

Why don't you do what your father did?

Why can't you get a job and keep it you lazy bum?

When are you going to get a job and settle down?

At the Occupational Exploratory Training Workshop (OET), in the Springhill Medium Security Institution, inmates are given the opportunity to begin to find answers to these and other critical areas felt so necessary to increase self-perception, self-worth and self-esteem. During its six years of operation, a number of spin-off, unpredicted benefits are felt to come from attending OET, some of the main ones are: reduced recidivist rates, reduced time of actual incarceration, a reduction in the likelihood of future involvement with the law through meaningful employment and career obtainment, and fewer work shifts from one Institutional job to another while incarcerated.

Our job or career (or lack of one) affects all aspects of our lives, and our life style affects our career options. As Leen Leiberg, author of Employment, Crime and Policy Issues, a collection of essay, recently wrote, "It is important for us to remember that employment is one of the most important elements shaping our lives and behavior: it provides the means to realize our aspirations, gives discipline to our efforts, and lends dignity to our relations with others.....the opportunity to contribute their labor is not only important, it is essential for their constructive and legitimate participation in community life."

Occupational Exploratory Training affords to those interested, two weeks to explore, what it is felt are the seven critical factors necessary for an accurate career search by anyone. These seven factors are:

- I) Education - both an expressed level as seen in the last grade one has passed in the School System, and a current level as seen by the results of the Test of Adult Basic Education.
- II) Aptitude/Ability - as demonstrated by certain tests of verbal, non-verbal and physical potentials and as expressed by one's various formal and informal activities in the past.
- III) Interests - as seen in the results of an Interest Inventory, which takes a list of those activities which a person is happy, satisfied and fulfilled by doing.
- IV) Information - is defined as knowledge about numerous career possibilities, and all the factors that go along with each of them, as well as, where possible, actually seeing the, discussing them, reading or somehow investigating them.
- V) Physical Factors - are mainly confined to two main areas: tests of vision and, where requested, hearing. Many people are unaware of the handicaps they possess in these two areas, and others, that could affect them in their pursuit of a career.
- VI) (Re) Location - some people have definite desires as to where they wish to live upon release, but may not be able to return there because of parole restrictions, or even more serious may not be able to find employment in their career field in that area.

cont.....

O.E.T.,

VII) Observations - given the variety of experiences a person has in the OET Workshop, we get to observe them, in how they function within each of them. Certain patterns may develop that we may see, but the person is not aware of themselves, and these patterns could positively or negatively affect their career options.

Following a detailed investigation of each of these factors, one or more viable Occupational Goals are established for the person. Almost every career imaginable has been pursued by an individual at one time or another including: aircraft and helicopter pilot, teacher, social worker, lawyer, reform school counsellor, and numerous others. Some of the ones most often encountered include: auto mechanic, auto body repairman, gas engine repair, dry wall and ceiling erection, plumber, welder, cabinet-maker, truck driver, barber and hairstylist, electronic equipment repairman and data entry operator.

Nothing is beyond one's reach, given the potential to acquire it, the knowledge that it is within your ability range, the determination to fully devote and sacrifice yourself to pursuing it and the advice of trained and experienced counsellors in the best method for you to actually strive towards it.

The two Counsellors staffing the OET Workshop are not employees of the Federal Government, but work under contract to and with the co-operation of the Institution, for the Nova Scotia Department of Education: Adult Vocational Education Division. Together they have eleven years experience within the OET system of vocational guidance, plus years of related experiences to help them help others pursue careers for which they are best suited - based on all factors known about the individual and the careers in question.

The Guidance Counsellors will never claim total success of their efforts to assist any one person. They do claim to give total effort in their work with an interested person though. Most of the credit for any success a person has after taking OET is theirs - but a little credit, we feel, comes from their belief that, although the Dept. of Education pays them, they really work for the individuals that approach them for assistance. They work together at all stages of the Workshop, every piece of information that is discovered, that might benefit the individual in their career search, is made known to them, discussed and together it is evaluated.

To counsel, as Webster's Dictionary defines it, is: "advice given especially as a result of consultation, a policy or plan of action or behavior." After the Occupational Goal above is arrived at, a Career Development Plan is worked on to detail how one is to best get from where they are now in life, to where they want to be, occupationally. Because a career is such a major part of one's life, other personal and social areas are discussed, if desired, such as: one's family, positive and negative behavior patterns, hopes, wishes, dreams and desires, and how these all fit into the desired life of this career person.

The OET Workshop ends by a private counselling session between the person and a counsellor. All tests, observations, facts etc. are looked at, discussed and incorporated into the person's Career Development Plan. At this point in the Workshop, where a person commits himself to a Plan that he has mostly devised himself, there is a terrific amount of maturity demonstrated by most people. This must be a natural admission as to the importance a stable career has for a person, his expression of a longing or desire not previously fulfilled. There is also a degree of immaturity, lack of commitment, and a take-life-one-day-at-a-time behavior as well. However, even this latter group of people are much better informed as to who they are and what some of the factors are that go to make up what they are. Given this new knowledge of themselves, if they ever decide to do something that requires these facts, they will be much better prepared to do it and their success in it is much more likely.

The Counsellors have had a person return a year or two, or a sentence or two later, and ask, "Could we sit down and talk again, I've been thinking about what you told me about...." Most have appreciated the effort spent on their behalf, but surely some feel their time was completely wasted here, but to all, the Guidance Counsellors are grateful that they were given the opportunity to help where they could and they regret not being able to do as much for each person as they would have liked.

cont.....

OET

Each and every person is aware that they can return at any convenient time to read their OET Report that is placed on their main Institutional file and their Parole file, even though they know ninety percent of it before they ever leave OET. Of those who have in fact returned, many have asked if they could some day have a copy of it to show their father, mother, wife etc. because were certain things mentioned about them that they were proud of and would like certain other people to read for themselves - or also they may want to use it for training or employment upon release. We feel most people enjoy learning about themselves in a relaxed, non-threatening and positive environment. They tend to be very proud of that part of themselves that we are able to help them know a little better, or sometimes, for the first time ever.

If one has no goal or direction in mind, it is not very important where one is at this point in time, but no matter where you are - it is important to know as much about yourself as you possibly can. It has been said:

Though a blind man's eyes don't function, he can still "see" himself.
Though a deaf man's ears don't function, he can still "hear" his thoughts.
Why is it that we, with good eyes and ears, can't do either very well?

OET has worked with very illiterate persons and has seen them advance, through dedicated and diligent efforts, to a state of literacy; they may never go to college, but then they usually do not wish to. What they really desire, is the ability to more adequately function in the environment they find themselves in, a goal we should all have. We have seen numerous people finally realizing and demonstrating that they, in fact, can learn - and learn quickly. They were called "slow", placed in Special Classes and otherwise mistreated, only because they didn't learn previously at the required speed, or had behavior problems preventing them from performing at their maximum. Knowing you can do something and given the opportunity to try to do it, often brings out one's natural desire and motivation to dedicate oneself to it, and actually achieve it some day.

Any realistic goal is admirable, be it welder, mechanic, lawyer, counselor, janitor, increased education, or any of the others. Here in Occupational Exploratory Training, we present to the person a whole list of options within his preceived ability range, that appear satisfying and fulfilling to him, that tend to meet his needs and wishes, and then work on the best, surest and most practical way of obtaining them.

We like to think of ourselves as Number 2 in this line of work; therefore we try harder, with the person - for the person, no matter where that person is in his life, or his sentence.



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Accent On Youth



Toys for Tots.



The Accent on Youth Group at the Springhill Institution is once more making a presentation of wooden toys to a local organization.

"Toys for Tots" commenced early last summer under the leadership of Larry Smith, Social Cultural Development Officer, with three inmates working on the project in the Arts and Crafts Shop, one morning each week.

The toys were made from wood scraps left over from the Precision Wood and Industrial Carpentry Shops, and include cars and trucks of various designs with sturdy construction.

This year, the toys were donated to the Amherst Day Care Centre, which is a government subsidized, non-profit organisation, headed by a volunteer Board of Directors, and is a member agency of the United Way. The presentation was made on October 29 by Cecil Armstrong, the new Chairman of A.O.Y., and Harry Crann. We know the kids will enjoy the toys as much as the guys here enjoyed making them. Also we are planning a Christmas project and, hopefully, we will get the materials and support to get it under way quite soon.

The membership wish to say "Good-bye and good luck" to Tom MacIlvena our past Chairman, who left for the big city lights of T.O. in mid-October.

The "Toys for Tots" project is just one part of the Accent on Youth Program which is a self-motivated, non-profit organization managed by the inmates at the Institution. A.O.Y. as it is known to most people, has the primary goal of helping to deter the youth of today from crime.

A.O.Y. does not employ the use of scare tactics when talking to young people, but they attempt to reach them in a way they will understand and respect, through counselling and lecturing in their own environment, relating their own experiences to them from a rational perspective.

The lecturing is usually done in schools and youth clubs where there is a great demand for an A.O.Y. speaking engagement. During the past year, members of the group visited several schools and clubs in various parts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Upcoming engagements include ~~at the~~ College in Summerside, P.E.I., Horton District High School, Simmonds High School and Nova Scotia School for Boys in Shelburne. There is also a Drug and Alcohol Seminar to be held at the Cobequid Educational Centre at Truro, scheduled for the end of November.

For further information about our Accent on Youth Group, please contact;

Raymond J. Doucet,
Accent on Youth
P.O. Box 2140
Springhill,
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Inmates Help With Harvest.

WINNIPEG (CP) - Some trusted prisoners at the Headingley Correctional Institution have been busy cutting cauliflower and other vegetables on a private farm.

The program is one of many sponsored by the institution, says Albert Stuart, a superintendent at the provincial centre.

"About three years ago we felt if we did a bit of (public relations) work and asked the public to accept these individuals, it would be good work for the inmates."

Two area farmers agreed to employ between five and twelve prisoners during the harvest season.

Recently, prisoners have been working on Jim Mosiewich's vegetable farm in La Salle, near Winnipeg, and will continue to help out until all the crops are harvested in October.

Stuart said the men selected for such work are chosen for a number of reasons including consideration of their previous work history, the type of offence and the length of sentence.

The workers start at \$4.25 an hour for 40-hour work weeks in the fields. The money is sent to Headingley to help pay for board, with the remainder divided between the prisoner's savings and spending accounts.

Mosiewich picks up his farmhands from the institution each morning at 8 a.m. and delivers them back at quitting time, usually around 5 p.m.

"They're an excellent crew," he said. "They're good people, chosen because they're not going to take off. But the main reason they're here is because the (harvesting) machine takes a minimum of 14 people to operate."

Moncton Transcript
October 9, 1982



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Citizens Want More Information Concerning Inmates' Activities

ADVOCATE (Staff) - Citizens concerned about security at the recently-closed Shulie Lake Community Correctional Centre made four requests regarding the institution's operation at a meeting here Monday, county councillor Raymond Yorke said Tuesday.

Mr. Yorke told The Daily News three of the requests were similar to those made at a citizen's meeting Friday in Port Greville - for improvements in security and the screening process in selection of inmates, and concern that inmates are taking jobs away from area residents. (Shulie Lake inmates are paid by Scott Paper Co. to work in the woods during their incarceration.

The fourth request asked that the public be given more information about the actions of inmates. For example, he said, if inmates are brought out for a swim in an area where children often go, parents would like to know the time so they could ensure their children would not be in the area.

The four requests were passed on to the Citizens Advisory Committee of Springhill Institution, the prison farm's parent institution, which will report back to the public within six weeks.

Amherst Daily News
October, 1982.

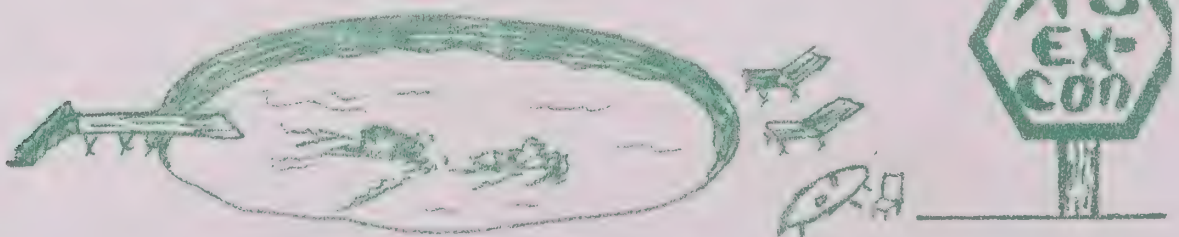
"LEPER-CON"

After having shown the above newspaper article to various inmates here at Springhill Institution, I received a variety of reactions. Indignation seemed to be foremost, followed by shock, anger and just plain disappointment. Of course the paragraph that caused these reactions pointed out that parents not only don't want their children to swim in the same water as inmates - they don't even want them to be in the same general area at the same time.

It should be brought to the attention of these parents that inmates from Shulie Lake are in the final phase of a well-proven release program, and in fact, the next step in that program will take them back into society. Hopefully, as responsible citizens. How are these parents going to recognize the 'Leper-con' in their midst after his release? Well, they're not, nor should they be able to.

This 'Leper-con' is a man who has been deprived of the laughter of his children, the physical love and comfort of his wife, the security of his parents and the company of his friends, and now, one step from freedom, these upright citizens demand that he be denied the carefree laughter of children enjoying themselves at a beach or swimming pool. What are these parents afraid of? Is the 'Leper-con' contagious? Or are they scared that one of their children will be molested by an inmate? Do they really believe that the Correctional system of Canada, which they uphold and maintain as members of society, can turn a burglar, car thief, or even a murderer, into a child molester? Well, Mom and Dad - relax....your child is as safe in the company of a group of inmates as he or she would be in church - probably safer. If an inmate had the temerity even to suggest harming a child he would, at the very least, be ostracized by the prison population. But it's more likely that he would have to be locked away for his own protection, because that is one kind of insect that we will not tolerate. As for the other 99% of us 'Leper-cons' - by the time we get to a minimum-security facility like Shulie Lake we've pretty well paid our debt to society, through a system supported by society, so if you parents - representing society - are still suspicious of us at the communal swimming hole, what are our chances?

Now that's not only disappointing, it's downright humiliating!



A RAT

by Garf Hingley

THE REASON I AM WRITING THIS ARTICLE is because I have something that I consider important to say concerning the word "rat." Right out front, I'll say that I have no love for a rat, but I am the type of guy who speaks his mind when something is dragging on my head. What bothers me right now is the widespread use of this word by persons who due to ignorance do not realize the seriousness of labelling another in such a manner. Okeh.

The only person who should be called a rat is the one there is absolute proof against. When a person testifies against another in court or puts the hammer down right in front of your eyes, you can then call it the way you see it. In these cases the transcripts from court show proof as to who is a rat and who is not, and, of course, seeing is believing, right! One shouldn't call another guy a rat without proof, or to get revenge for something he may have done to you. And heresay is not proof enough. Sure you can say to yourself, I wouldn't put much trust in this guy, or that guy is probably a potential crown witness, but to say out loud that that fellow there is a rat, no doubt about it-- I can tell by the way he walks-- is a wrong thing to do.

You have all probably heard someone being labelled a rat and you've probably seen this news spread as fast as a grassfire. No doubt you've joined in the fire itself, I know I have. I just want to let you guys know that you are condemning a man to an almost certain death in a great many of the jails in Canada by labelling him a rat. In short, "you are the hangman!"

I guess the message that I want to get across is use common sense and judgement and have proof before you think about calling another a rat, because if an innocent guy gets that label without cause, then, theoretically, that sort of thing can happen to anyone, you and I both. You wouldn't appreciate it, nor would I. So, let's use our heads and keep our jaws quiet unless we know what we are talking about, Okeh? Remember, we are the hangmen in such cases, so let's use our power wisely and justly.



Periodically we take this article out, dust it off, and reprint it in the hope that it will encourage some guys to put their brain in gear before operating their mouth.

KILLHAVEN PENN.

(Somewhere in Canada) - An official spokesmen for the Killhaven Institution said last night that the new policy of arming foot patrolmen has been an unqualified success. He pointed to the fact that there have been no serious riots or escape attempts in the past four days.

The spokesman added that the names of the three caseworkers and two security officers accidentally shot this week would be released shortly.

KNOCK KNOCK..... WHO'S THERE??

When the police knock on your door and say they would like to come in and look around, what should you do?

- * Ask to see their authorization to enter your house. If they don't have a search warrant or writ of assistance, you don't have to let them in. If you choose to let them in voluntarily, it may be difficult to get them out later.
- * Read the writ slowly and carefully before letting them in.
- * Note what it is that the police are being authorized to search for, as well as the date it was signed and the name of the Justice of the Peace who signed it.
- * Ask all police officers who enter for their identification and note their names and badge numbers.
- * Insist that you be allowed to call a lawyer. Ask your lawyer to come over and witness the search.
- * If the police seize anything, demand an itemized receipt.
- * As soon as the police leave, write as full an account of the events as possible.

What about when you are stopped on the street?

- * If you are the driver of a motor vehicle you must identify yourself and accompany a police officer for a breathalyser test if required.
- * Otherwise you need not answer any questions, or go with the police unless you are placed under arrest.
- * If arrested insist on the right to retain a lawyer and say nothing until you have contacted your lawyer.
- * Be courteous but firm.

THESE ARE YOUR RIGHTS ON PAPER. CIRCUMSTANCES MAY, HOWEVER, DICTATE A SOMEWHAT TEMPERED APPROACH IF YOU DON'T WANT TO END UP IN A HEAP ON CHERRY BEACH OR FACING A TRUMPED UP CHARGE.

The above is an excerpt from an article about the Litton demonstration arrests - TORONTO CLARION, Jan. 15, 1983. If you live in Canada you may find this advice useful sometime - no-one is immune.

you think you've got it tough.....

IRAN - The twelve-year-old daughter of the doctor Rad Poor was arrested while at her father's side in Mesched (Province Korassan), for running on the street in shorts. The Pasddarad (Khomeini's revolutionary police) sentenced the girl to sixty lashes. In his fear for the child, the father wanted to take the punishment himself, but the revolutionary police would have none of it. The child was whipped before his eyes. She died before fifty lashes were done.

----a woman from Iran

Taken from OFF OUR BACKS, Jan. 1983. (A women's news journal).

EUTHANASIA, AIDING SUICIDE AND CESSATION OF TREATMENT: A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

The Law Reform Commission of Canada has recently published a Working Paper under the provocative title of *Euthanasia, Aiding Suicide and Cessation of Treatment*. This Document is one of a series of Study and Working Papers devoted to problems raised for law by modern medical and technological progress and discoveries.

In the very first pages it becomes apparent that the three main topics are closely tied together. How far, for instance, can a doctor go in offering advice or even aid to a terminally ill patient who wishes to end his or her life? When does this act become one of active or passive euthanasia, or when does it contravene section 224 of the *Criminal Code*, which makes an offence of counselling or aiding a person to commit suicide?

The first part of the Document is concerned with identifying in the medical context the practical problems raised by these fundamental issues. Both problems of terminally ill patients and seriously defective newborns are described and addressed in terms of possible legal responses. The Paper then attempts to show how the relevant sections of the *Criminal Code* no longer constitute a sufficiently clear and comprehensive guide for the judicial decision-making process in this respect in view of the changes in social attitudes and medical practices. Three basic questions are raised in terms of legal or legislative policy:

1. Should active euthanasia be allowed?
2. Should counselling or aiding suicide be decriminalized?
3. Should law recognize the right of the competent patient to refuse treatment or to have treatment already in progress stopped, even if such decision leads to death?

The Paper sets forth clearly the main objectives of the proposed reform. In terms of general policy these goals are very close if not identical to those already expressed by the Commission in previous Papers in the *Protection of Life series*. The tentative recommendations of the Law Reform Commission are in the negative to the first two questions and in the affirmative to the third.

Insofar as active euthanasia is concerned, the Commission is of the view that the risks involved in any attempt to legalize it are clearly outweighed by the dangers. Moreover, the very limited number of absolutely clear-cut cases where in theory active euthanasia could be recommended makes this danger quite real. Active euthanasia is thus condemned in strong and unequivocal terms.

The reasons for keeping in the *Criminal Code* the crime of counselling or aiding suicide are interesting. The Paper reveals that the actual provision of the *Criminal Code* is seldom, if ever used in practice. It becomes apparent that from a policy point of view the Commission hesitated somewhat. Yet it decided that the prohibition should be retained, if only to deal with rare and extreme cases that deserve public sanction. For example, the case of the person who knows the suicidal tendencies of a child or a teenager and who nevertheless gives them lethal drugs instead of helping him out is cited as a clear illustration. The Commission however recommends that a specific written authorization of the Attorney General be obtained as a condition precedent to prosecution, which under the circumstances seems reasonable.

Finally, on the issue of cessation of treatment the Commission strongly suggests that the present somewhat uncertain state of the law be clarified. The recommendations of the Commission are of great significance on this issue.

It recommends first of all that the decision of a capable patient to refuse treatment be respected in all cases, even if it leads to certain death. Imposed treatment and unwanted aggressive therapy are thus clearly condemned. The law should also recognize that it is sound medical practice and within the spectrum of the law for a physician to withhold or stop a treatment which does not offer a reasonable hope for the patient's eventual recovery or effective control of the disease, except where the patient explicitly asks for the treatment to be administered. This in effect is a clear rejection of the classic vitalist theory and clarifies the rules laid out by sections 14, 45, 198 and 199 of the *Criminal Code*.

con't

The problems raised by the seriously deformed newborn are indeed very complex. The decision to treat or not to treat is now taken in Canada on bases that often vary from province to province, hospital to hospital, individual to individual. A certain number of these decisions moreover are taken either on grounds of socio-economic policies (the societal costs of keeping seriously deformed individuals in institutions for the rest of their lives) or also sometimes on various eugenic grounds. The Working Paper addresses the problem squarely and directly. It condemns as both illegal and unethical the decision not to treat in cases where a simple procedure or operation could give the newborn a chance to live. In other words the Commission doesn't agree with the idea that others should have the right of life or death over human beings where the decision is based solely on a value judgment as to a "substandard" quality of life. As far as the person incapable of expressing valid consent is concerned the Working Paper examines at length and in detail the possible solutions to provide for substituted consent and concludes in general that the present state of the law should be maintained. The incapacity of a person to give free and informed consent should not be a valid reason to oblige a physician to initiate treatment that offers no reasonable hope. The physician, moreover, should be able, on the basis of his professional medical judgment, to discontinue therapeutic treatment in these cases without incurring criminal liability.

The practice of the living will is also criticized as not useful and even dangerous. The actual proposal for legislative revision of the *Criminal Code* is the following:

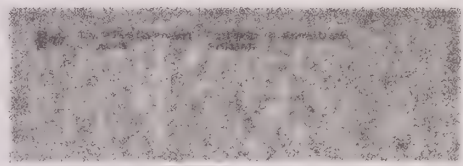
1. Nothing in sections 14, 45, 198 and 199 of the *Criminal Code* shall be interpreted as requiring a physician
 - (a) to continue to administer or to undertake medical treatment against the clearly expressed wishes of the person for whom such treatment is intended;
 - (b) to continue to administer or to undertake medical treatment, when such treatment is medically useless and is not in the best interests of the person for whom it is intended, except in accor-

dance with the clearly expressed wishes of this person.

2. Nothing in sections 14, 45, 198 and 199 of the *Criminal Code* shall be interpreted as preventing a physician from undertaking or ceasing to administer palliative care and measures intended to eliminate or to relieve the suffering of a person for the sole reason that such care or measures are likely to shorten the life expectancy of this person.

This Working Paper merits careful reading. It does not purport to present the final but only the tentative views of the Commission on a very complex set of problems. How will doctors and jurists react? How will the Canadian public react? Some will find the Working Paper too conservative. The aim of the exercise however, was more to find a simple and practical way to adapt the present *Criminal Code* to rules of behaviour which patients, physicians and hospital personnel are already trying to apply to the best of their ability in concrete and everyday contexts.

by Jean-Louis Baudouin, Q.C.



PROTECTION OF LIFE

**euthanasia,
aiding suicide
and cessation
of treatment**



To obtain a free copy of Working Paper 28, entitled *Euthanasia, Aiding Suicide and Cessation of Treatment*, write to the Law Reform Commission of Canada, 130 Albert St., Ottawa, Canada K1A 0L6. This Working Paper is available in English and French.

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dis
place
ere

by Uncle Moe
(the grumpy old bugger)

After bein driv out o me bed in de mornin wid de racket o younguns shoutin an radios blarin an doors crashin an bangin I has to run de gauntlet o Hawk-spit Alley - some calls it de Breezeway - but in de mornin its Hawk-spit Alley. Its like walkin through a minefield of phlem gobs wit a chance o gettin hit wit de airborne stuff if ders more dan tree people in de Alley at de same time. I donno how healthy young fellers can soun so sickly, but sometimes de hawkin puts me in mind o de consumption ward at de Cottage ospital back ome in Come-by-Chance. Some o deez young byes coffs so ard sometimes I spects t'see a ragged rectum or a tattered testicle starin back at me from de floor.

So wid a weak stommick an a wee bit of imagination it sure takes some balls to look a plate o poached eggs in de face - if y'know what I mean!

But, Lar Jeez ders some hignortant bastids in dis place. After I've drug me poor ol bones all de way along to de mess-hall (wonder why dey calls it dat, only mess I ever seen der was wen buddy dropped a hanfull of mashed potatoes e was dunkin in de sugar bowl), I stans in de line-up like a reezonible Christian uman been, den I has to put up wid deez cheeky young whippersnappers pushin in front o me widout so much as a "By yer leave" or "Kiss me ass". Its as much as flesh an blood can stan an I'm givin fair warnin dat one o deez days I'm goin to wind up an drive me foot so far up one o der posterior orifices dey'll be chewin on de toe o me boot wid der dack teeth. Do em good if dey're dat hungry, I sez. Ha ha, I'd like t'see em do it in Dorchester Pex - dey'd become part o de meal right swift, I bet - goldarn flibbertygibbity peckerwoods. Oh yeah - Happy New Year.



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R. J. Findley

A black and white line drawing of a snowman and two children. The snowman is on the right, wearing a hat, scarf, and mittens, holding a stick. Two children, a girl and a boy, are on the left, wearing winter coats and hats. They are standing in a snowy landscape with small trees in the background.

R. J. Findley



tart,
e from
heart.

THROUGH LIFE

In this world you have some thought
About your life and whether or not
You make your life in dreams come true
It always seems to be up to you.

The future holds so many things
It makes you wish for a set of wings
So you could fly through life itself
And wouldn't feel you're on the shelf.

As some think life is not a role
You have a heart and have a soul
Your body bleeds the same as mine
And all get old - on through time.

People, now I'm telling you
If not to others, yourself be true,
You cut yourself, it won't hurt me
But hurting you, yourself, it be.

Grow those wings and fly through life,
forget about your awful strife,
Talk to yourself like father and son,
Look after "You know - No. 1."

Shawn Sleep...

i Picture a cube

slowly

tumbling through space

It inspires me to ask

what are we left to face?

We've handled some wars

and still have survived

We've asked ourselves why

and learned how to lie.

We learn that there is

a God up above,

but I look around

and ask, "where is love?"

A child will soon starve

alone and in pains

I say to my brothers

"I feel so ashamed."

Please God, if you're there

and taking a stand,

please don't condemn me

please give me a hand,

I still walk alone -

not a part of this race

Just one lonely cube

tumbling

slowly through space.

Glenn Thompson.





Lady Luck, Lady Luck
You deal a rough hand,
Although you're a goddess
And I'm just a man

Yes, I thought you'd fight mean
Expected the coup
But that was a low one
Even for you!

You do take advantage
Of your lofty position
To tease and torment me
Without rhyme or reason.

You sent my store order
You sent your regrets
You sent lots of matches
But NO CIGARETTES.

With open hands outstretched
My voice shouts 'Enough!'
Your disciples take heart
They tighten the cuff.

There were times I loved you
But this is too much
May the bats in you belfry
Inhabit your crotch.

I crave open spaces
The feeling is strong.
In nine feet by six feet
The day is too long.

May the scabs...Why go on
for I know a lost cause,
In your days' entertainment
I'm merely a pause.

My clock runs on patience,
The game - and the mind,
But when I need an ace
You deal me a nine.

I've just got to tell you
I really feel used -
Go on, laugh 'er up,
I know you're amused.

You might have me hurt
But you ain't got me beat
I'll ride with your punches
And stay on my feet.

Well, I know how to stop you
And leave you a' chokin'
You silly old bitch,
I just gave up smokin'.

M. Dale

Written in the dark, damp, dismal depths of that dungeon
called Dorchester.



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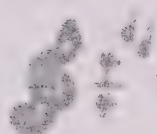
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PETER KING... Suitcase yer face!
(Gotcha again, farmer) - Moe.

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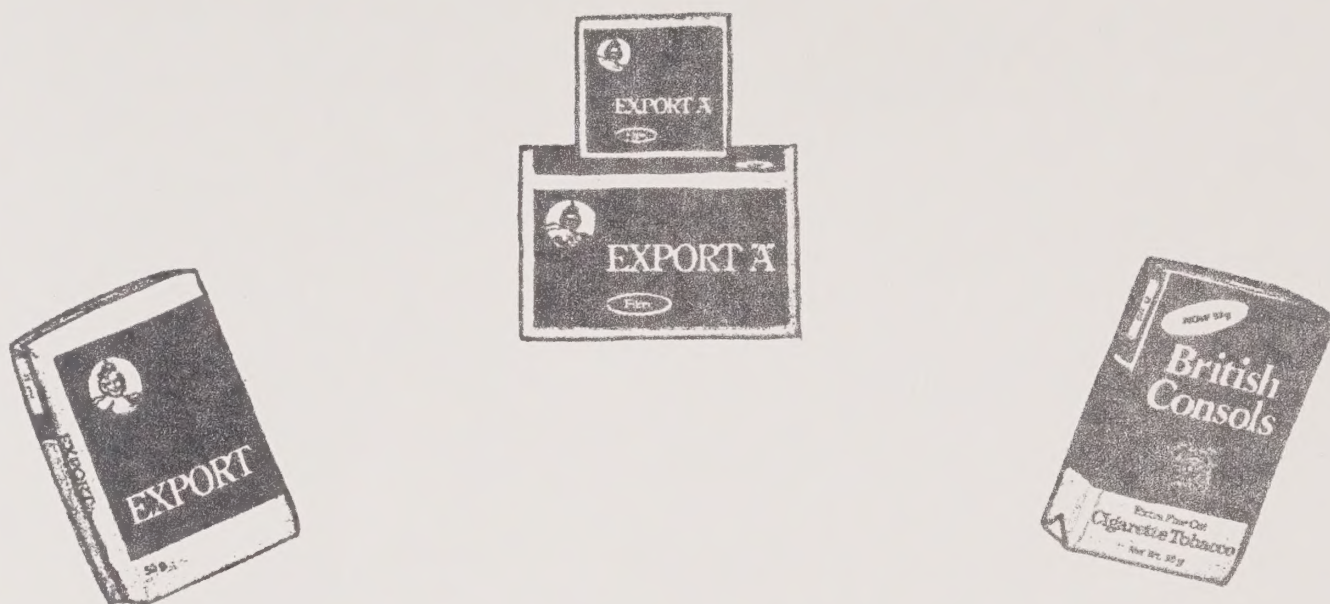
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